

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-44. (Canceled)

45. (Withdrawn) A method of constructing a lockable, removable currency cassette comprising:

molding the cassette according to a single walled injection molded design; and
connecting an access door to the cassette shell.

46. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the walls of the cassette are joined using a thermoplastic welding technique.

47. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46 wherein an electromagnetic field is used to provide thermal energy to weld the walls.

48. (Currently amended) A stacker mechanism for a cassette to store banknotes and the like, the stacker mechanism comprising:

a stacker plate; and

a drive means coupled to the stacker plate, wherein the drive means includes non-circular drive gears, and wherein each non-circular drive gear has an operating radius that varies with angle as the gear rotates.

49. (Currently amended) A stacker mechanism for a cassette to store banknotes and the like, the stacker mechanism comprising:

a stacker plate;

a first scissor arm pivotally connected at a first end about a fixed point on the stacker plate;

a second scissor arm slidably connected at a first end to the stacker plate and pivotally connected to the first scissor arm about a scissor pivot point located approximately at the center of the length of the first scissor arm, wherein the second scissor arm is pivotally connected at a second end about a fixed point on a frame; ~~and~~

a link arm for driving the stacker plate, the link arm connected to the first scissor arm at a pivot point located between the scissor pivot point and a second end of the first scissor arm that is slidably connected to the frame; and

a drive means coupled to the link arm and having non-circular drive gears, wherein each non-circular drive gear has a profile such that its operating radius varies with angle as the gear rotates.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently amended) A stacker mechanism for a cassette to store banknotes and the like, the stacker mechanism comprising:

a stacker plate;

a first scissor arm connected at a first end to the stacker plate;

a second scissor arm connected at a first end to the stacker plate and pivotally connected to the first scissor arm about a scissor pivot point located approximately at the center of the length of the first scissor arm;

a link arm for driving the stacker plate, the link arm connected to the first scissor arm at a pivot point located between the scissor pivot point and a second end of the first scissor arm; and

a drive means coupled to the link arm and having non-circular drive gears, wherein each non-circular drive gear has a profile such that its operating radius varies with angle as the gear rotates.

52. (Previously presented) The stacker mechanism of claim 49 wherein the stacker plate comprises a banknote stacker plate.

53. (Currently amended) A cassette for storing banknotes and the like comprising:
a banknote stacker plate;
a first scissor arm pivotally connected at a first end about a fixed point on the stacker plate;

a second scissor arm slidably connected at a first end to the stacker plate and pivotally connected to the first scissor arm about a scissor pivot point located approximately at the center of the length of the first scissor arm, wherein the second scissor arm is pivotally connected at a second end about a fixed point on a frame; ~~and~~

a link arm for driving the stacker plate, the link arm connected to the first scissor arm at a pivot point located between the scissor pivot point and a second end of the first scissor arm that is slidably connected to the frame; and

a drive means coupled to the link arm and having non-circular drive gears, wherein each non-circular drive gear has a profile such that its operating radius varies with angle as the gear rotates.

54. (Previously presented) The stacker mechanism of claim 49 wherein the link arm is substantially in a same plane as the first scissor arm and is connected directly to the first scissor arm.

55. (Previously presented) The stacker mechanism of claim 51 wherein the link arm is substantially in a same plane as the first scissor arm and is connected directly to the first scissor arm.

56. (Previously presented) The cassette of claim 53 wherein the link arm is substantially in a same plane as the first scissor arm and is connected directly to the first scissor arm.

57. (Canceled)

58. (Currently amended) The stacker mechanism of claim 49 wherein the link arm is connected via a driven gear to a crankshaft operable to rotate about a fixed center.

59. (Canceled)

60. (Canceled)

61. (Currently amended) The stacker mechanism of claim 53 wherein the link arm is connected via a driven gear to a crankshaft operable to rotate about a fixed center

62. (New) The stacker mechanism of claim 48 wherein the non-circular drive gears include a pair of gears whose combined operating radii add up to a constant value for any given input angle.

63. (New) The stacker mechanism of claim 49 wherein the non-circular drive gears include a pair of gears whose combined operating radii add up to a constant value for any given input angle.

64. (New) The cassette of claim 53 wherein the non-circular drive gears include a pair of gears whose combined operating radii add up to a constant value for any given input angle.

65. (New) The cassette of claim 64 wherein the non-circular gears are arranged such that a maximum reduction ratio is achieved at highest torque demand.